GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3228
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
TELEPHONES ON DEMAND
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide telephones on demand in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the feasibility of providing technologies having low running cost, minimum maintenance, cheap and reliable in rural and remote areas;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the progress made in this regard as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The office of the Administrator (USO) Funds has entered into Agreements with the successful bidders for providing subsidy support towards provision of Rural household direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in the eligible 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), where the cost of providing telephone is more than the revenue earned. As per the Agreement conditions, the successful bidders should provide at least 100 lines per Secondary Switching Area (SSA) within six months of the effective date of Agreement. Thereafter, all the waitlisted subscribers are to be provided with telephones within a period of three months in these 1,685 SDCAs.

(b) & (c): Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) who is one of the successful bidders, has planned to cover the far-flung areas which cannot be covered economically on wired lines through deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Technology. The WLL technology has the advantage of relatively wide coverage with less maintenance problems due to elimination of external plant.

(d) Out of a total of 65,62,687 rural telephone connections provided by BSNL, 10,45,680 telephones have been provided on WLL from 01-04-2001 to 30-01-2005.